

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

September 2007

USA Comments

CHAPTER 1.3.5.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALISATION

Article 1.3.5.1.

Introduction

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A particular application of the concept of zoning is the establishment of a *containment zone*. In the event of a limited *outbreak* of a specified *disease* within an otherwise free country or *zone*, a single *containment zone*, which includes all *cases* and *suspect contacts*, can be established for the purpose of minimizing the impact on the entire country or *zone*.

Comment/Rationale: Any *cases* or epidemiological and suspect contacts must be considered when establishing a *containment zone*.

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As well as contributing to the safety of *international trade*, zoning and compartmentalisation may assist with *disease* control or eradication within Members ~~Countries~~. Zoning may encourage the more efficient use of resources within certain parts of a country and compartmentalisation may allow the functional separation of a *subpopulation* from other domestic or wild animals through biosecurity measures, which a *zone* (through geographical separation) would not achieve. Following a *disease outbreak*, the use of compartmentalization may allow a Member to take advantage of epidemiological links among *subpopulations* or common practices relating to biosecurity, despite diverse geographical locations, to facilitate *disease* control and/or the continuation of trade.

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Comment/Rationale: The word “with” is added for clarity.

Article 1.3.5.2.

General considerations

The *Veterinary Services* of an *exporting country* which is establishing a *zone* or *compartment* within its territory for *international trade* purposes should clearly define the *subpopulation* in accordance with the recommendations in the relevant chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*, including those on surveillance, and

the identification and traceability of live animals. The *Veterinary Services* of an *exporting country* should be able to explain to the *Veterinary Services* of an *importing country* the basis for claiming its claim of a distinct *animal health status* for the given zone or compartment in such terms under consideration.

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Comment/Rationale: Suggested wording added for clarity.

Article 1.3.5.3.

Principles for defining a zone or compartment, including containment zone

In conjunction with the above considerations, the following principles should apply when Members define a *zone* or a *compartment*.

1. The extent of a *zone* and its geographical limits should be established by the *Veterinary Authority* on the basis of natural, artificial and/or legal boundaries, and made public through official channels.
2. Establishment of a *containment zone* should be based on a rapid response including appropriate standstill of movement of animals and *commodities* upon notification of suspicion of the specified *disease* and the demonstration that the *outbreak* is contained within this *containment zone* through epidemiological investigation (trace-back, trace-forward) after confirmation of *infection*. The primary *outbreak* and likely source of the *outbreak* should be identified and all *cases* shown to be epidemiologically linked. For the effective establishment of a *containment zone*, it is necessary to demonstrate that there have been no new *cases* in the *containment zone* within a minimum of two *incubation periods* from the last detected *case*.

A *stamping-out policy* or another effective control strategy should be applied and the susceptible animal population within the *containment zones* should be clearly identifiable as belonging to the *containment zone*. Increased passive and targeted surveillance in accordance with Appendix 3.8.7. in the rest of the country or *zone* should be carried out and has not detected any evidence of *infection*. Measures to prevent spread of the *infection* from the *containment zone* to the rest of the country or *zone*, including ongoing surveillance in the *containment zone*, should be in place.

The free status of the areas outside the *containment zone* would be suspended pending the establishment of the *containment zone*. The suspension of free status of these areas could be lifted, once the *containment zone* is clearly established, irrespective of the provisions of the *disease specific chapter*.

Comment/rationale: Recommend adding the word “containment” before the word “zone” to clearly indicate one is referring to the “containment zone” and not to another “zone”. This is consistent with language used in the rest of Point 2) under Article 1.3.5.3.